

February 13, 2002

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to you today as a member of the SBC community advisory panel and resident in the city of Columbus. I am concerned about one of the most significant regulatory challenges this company faces, wholesale pricing, in Ohio.

Under the current regulatory framework, SBC Ohio is required to make its telecommunications network available to competitors at wholesale rates set by state regulators -- today these rates are set at about half of what it costs us to provide the service. Consequently, SBC loses money on every wholesale line it leases. While I support the idea of telephone competition, this regulatory structure subsidizes competitors in our community while providing no incentive for them to invest their fair share in infrastructure or technical support.

SBC is a major Ohio and Columbus employer and contributor. I am concerned that requiring SBC to operate within this unrealistic regulatory framework will have negative financial consequences on the company and ultimately have a detrimental effect on our community.

The FCC should create a national telecommunications model that provides incentives for facilities investment, and thus, creates an environment allowing for long-term, sustainable competition as well as economic development tools for our communities.

Sincerely,

Erika Clark